

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 EUR-12

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R 101942Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 8405

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 23342

EXCON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM LIST REVIEW - STARTING DATE FOR
ROUND FOUR

REFS: (A) COCOM REV (74) 27, (B) STATE 210453

SUMMARY: IN COMMITTEE DISCUSSION SEPTEMBER 9, ALL DELS
AGREED TO NOVEMBER 17 STARTING DATE IN PRINCIPLE AFTER
US DEL ON INSTRUCTIONS EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE
FOR THAT DATE. UK HOWEVER ASKED THAT WE CONSIDER DATE
AT THE END OF OCTOBER OR BEGINNING NOVEMBER. CANADIANS
AGREED TO NOVEMBER 17 ON CONDITION THAT GOVERNMENTS BE
ALLOWED FIVE WEEKS TO STUDY SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROPOSALS.
WISH WAS EXPRESSED FORCEFULLY ALL AROUND THAT US BE
FULLY READY TO NEGOTIATE. MATTER WILL BE RECONSIDERED
SEPTEMBER 16 FOR FINAL DECISION.

ACTION REQUESTED: CONFIRMATION OF NOVEMBER 17 DATE;
VIEWS ON CANADIAN CONDITION ON TIME FOR STUDY OF NEW
PROPOSALS; AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO SEE THAT US IS
FULLY PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WHEN TALKS BEGIN. END
SUMMARY.

1. ALL DELS WERE FLEXIBLE ON CHOICE OF DATE FOR COMMEN-
CEMENT OF ROUND IV WHEN MATTER WAS DISCUSSED SEPTEMBER
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9, MOST SAYING ANY DATE BETWEEN OCTOBER 13 AND NOVEMBER

17 WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AS LONG AS US WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE ON DATE CHOSEN. UK DEL, WHOM WE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF OUR PREFERENCE FOR NOVEMBER 17, RECOGNIZED THAT OCTOBER 13 WOULD GIVE US PROBLEMS BUT SUGGESTED OCTOBER 27 OR NOVEMBER 3 AS A COMPROMISE. HE SAID HMG'S CONCERN WAS THAT STARTING NOVEMBER 17 WOULD MEAN NEW LISTS COULD NOT BE PUT INTO EFFECT UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS, AND HIS INITIAL POSITION WAS THAT HE DID NOT THINK NOVEMBER 17 WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO UK AUTHORITIES. OTHER DELS FOUND HIS COMPROMISE DATES ACCEPTABLE.

2. CANADIAN, FRENCH AND JAPANESE DELS ALL GAVE PREPARED STATEMENTS REITERATING THEIR GOVERNMENTS' DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE MEAGER RESULTS OF ROUND III AND POINTING THE FINGER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AT US UNREADINESS AS PRIME CAUSE OF FAILURE. CANADIAN DEL COULD ACCEPT ANY DATE AS LONG AS ALL DELS WERE READY TO NEGOTIATE ON THAT DATE, BUT ON FURTHER CONDITION THAT GOVERNMENTS BE GIVEN AT LEAST FIVE WEEKS TO STUDY "SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROPOSALS OR MEMORANDA." JAPAN - REFERRING TO BILATERAL APPROACH TO OUR EMBASSY IN TOKYO (TOKYO'S 12359) - ASSERTED SLOW PACE OF ROUND III WAS DUE IN GREAT PART TO DELAY BY US IN EXAMINING OTHER COUNTRIES' PROPOSALS, AND EXPRESSED EARNEST DESIRE THAT ROUND IV BE CONCLUSIVE. FRENCH ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DELS WOULD BE BETTER PREPARED THAN IN ROUND III, AND THAT ROUND IV WOULD BE CONCLUSIVE.

3. SPEAKING LAST AND DRAWING ON REF (B), US DEL EXPRESSED OUR STRONG PREFERENCE FOR NOVEMBER 17. NOTING UK SUGGESTION TO START TALKS AROUND END OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, HE PROMISED TO DRAW IT TO HIS AUTHORITIES' ATTENTION, BUT FELT THEY WOULD PROBABLY ADHERE TO NOVEMBER 17. HE SAID HE DREW FROM THE DISCUSSION THE CONCLUSION THAT COMMITTEE'S OVERRIDING CONCERN WAS FOR ALL DELS TO BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED, WHATEVER DATE WERE CHOSEN. HIS AUTHORITIES SHARED THAT CONCERN AND THAT WAS WHY THEY PREFERRED THE LATER DATE.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF US DEL'S REMARKS ALL DELS AGREED TO NOVEMBER 17 UNCONDITIONALLY, EXCEPT FOR UK DEL, WHO SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WOULD ACCEPT IT IF US WAS UNABLE TO START EARLIER, AND CANADIAN DEL, WHOSE ACCEPTANCE WAS CONDITIONAL ON AGREEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE TO A PERIOD OF FIVE WEEKS FOR STUDY OF SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROPOSALS. (HE PRIVATELY EXPLAINED LATER THAT THIS WAS NOT APPLICABLE TO SMALL CHANGES OR RECTIFICATIONS.)

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ACTION EB-07

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5. CHAIRMAN RESCHEDULED THE MATTER ON SEPTEMBER 16 FOR FINAL DECISION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) CONFIRMATION BY SEPTEMBER 16 OF WASHINGTON'S PREFERENCE FOR NOVEMBER 17 AS STARTING DATE IN LIGHT OF PROPOSED UK COMPROMISE DATE; (B) ACTION TO SEE THAT WE ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE ON EACH ITEM BY DATE SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION; (C) ACCEPTANCE OF CANADIAN CONDITION OF FIVE WEEK PERIOD FOR STUDY OF NEW PROPOSALS, OR COUNTER-SUGGESTION FOR SHORTER PERIOD IF DESIRED.

7. SINCE OTHER DELS HAVE NOW ACCEDED TO OUR DESIRE FOR A STARTING DATE MUCH LATER THAN SOME OF THEM WOULD HAVE PREFERRED, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT USDEL BE FURNISHED WITH CAREFULLY CONSIDERED NEGOTIATING POSITIONS, RESPONSIVE TO ARGUMENTS PREVIOUSLY ADVANCED BY OTHER DELS, BY THE DATES WHEN THE ITEMS CONCERNED ARE SCHEDULED IF NOT BEFORE. IN A NUMBER OF CASES, HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY WE WHO ARE BLOCKING UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT, AND THAT COULD BE QUICKLY ACHIEVED IF THE UNITED STATES ACCEPTED THE POSITIONS ALREADY AGREED UPON BY THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE. IN ANY EVENT REPETITION OF OUR ROUND III PERFORMANCE WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO OUR COCOM PARTNERS AND MIGHT WELL CAUSE A BREAKDOWN OF THE LIST REVIEW.

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8. A CHECK WITH THE SECRETARIAT DISCLOSES THAT
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DRAFT RECORDS OF ROUND III DISCUSSIONS
HAVE BEEN ISSUED ON ALL ITEMS. IF ANY HAVE NOT BEEN
RECEIVED, PLEASE NOTIFY US AND WE WILL PROMPTLY POUCH
COPIES.
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